

Upcoming SGSE Events!

March 2	10:30 a.m.	Awareness Forum
March 21	12:00 p.m.	Prayer Event
March 30	10:30 a.m.	Bible Study 1
April 6	10:30 a.m.	Bible Study 2
April 13	10:30 a.m.	Bible Study 3
April 20	10:30 a.m.	Bible Study 4
April 27	11:00 a.m.	Congregational Commitment Brunch
May 18		Commitment Dedication Sunday

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
406 South 19th Street Laramie, WY 82070



Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

Building on the past



Building for the future

“... built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the chief cornerstone.”
Ephesians 2:20

Stewardship Emphasis News

February 2008

CHRIST OUR CORNERSTONE

OUR HISTORY

In 1926 a small group of former members of the dissolved Scandinavian Lutheran Church, joined by families who had recently moved to Laramie, gathered around God’s Word and His Sacraments. At first, services were held at the North Star Hall. For a brief time after that, they were held in a rented St. Paul’s United Church of Christ. In 1933, a home at 913 South 4th Street was used. Later as the congregation grew, this group of faithful Lutherans rented First Christian Church, then from 1934 to 1937 used a remodeled second floor of the Wyoming Creamery as a temporary chapel. In December of 1927, a house at the corner of 5th and Clark Streets was purchased for \$2500. The congregation paid \$200, borrowed \$800 from the Southern Nebraska District Extension Treasury, and assumed a loan for the remaining \$1500. The chapel was dedicated on November 13, 1938. In 1950, Zion sold its property at 5th and Clark and relocated to its present location at 406 South 19th Street. Our present building was dedicated on October 21, 1951. Oral history indicates that roughly ten years later discussions began concerning the *next* building and location.

Since then, many plans have been considered and passed over. Should Zion buy adjoining property and

expand? Should an existing building be purchased and remodeled? In the years 1997 to 1998, Zion began looking at property with the intent of building a new church. A list of 16 different properties were eventually pared down to one: the four-plus acres at the corner of 30th and Reynolds Streets. On August 30, 1998, Zion voted to purchase the property. With the help of Capital Funding Services, a major stewardship emphasis was begun, and the land was purchased in May 1999 for \$358,000. In February 2007, through the generosity of faithful and persistent stewards, the final payment was made on the land. In all, Zion spent \$414,000 for the new piece of land.

Concurrent with the purchase of the land, a building team was formed to begin giving shape and direction to a new church facility. Through many meetings, trips to newly constructed churches, meticulous consideration to needs, spaces and uses, and with the help of architect Doug Selby, a plan was presented to Zion and on September 9, 2007, Zion voted to build a new church, sell the present building and begin a new stewardship emphasis in order to build a new church. In addition, the assistance and expertise of Laborers for Christ has been sought to help us in the construction of the new church.

OUR FUTURE

Our present building, blessed through its many years by Christ our cornerstone and rich with beauty and memories, has been the setting of the faithful teaching, baptizing and feeding of God’s people. The possibility of Zion building a new facility has spanned many pastors, many people and many years. We, the people of Zion, have finally arrived at that time when we need to build a new church which is projected to cost \$2,050,000 and will include:

- A sanctuary with seating for 300
- A narthex for before and after service fellowship
- Six Sunday School classrooms
- A youth room
- A parking lot
- A sacristy for proper preparation of the Lord’s Supper
- Handicap-accessible bathrooms
- Accessible Office Space
- A workroom
- Storage Space
- A larger cry room
- A kitchen designed and equipped for large events
- An elevator-accessible basement designed for large gatherings
- And a meeting space called “The Room”

OUR MISSION

Several years ago Zion labored over the creation of a mission statement which reads: **Zion exists to faithfully baptize and teach until the Lord’s return.** Wherever Zion has been located such a mission has been carried out. The dream and planning of a new church is coming closer to a reality. But this new church facility is not even primarily for us. It is for those who have not yet heard of the

saving love of God in Christ Jesus. It is for those who have not yet been baptized and taught. It is for the generations yet to come. Designed into the new church is mission. There is a third, empty office to be filled with a new church worker to help us expand our work. There is room to build and grow in new ministries as the Holy Spirit continues to call and gather more people, not to us, but to Christ alone. We are the inheritors of those who planned before us, but we are also the givers of those yet to come. At the corner of all of this has been and continues to be Christ, our cornerstone. On Him alone we build.

If we glance back into the 82 years of Zion’s history we see that under God’s gracious and giving care this congregation has been very bold and adventurous before, already buying or building twice in its history. In the Gospel according to St. Matthew (20:1-16) we hear about the Master and His vineyard, the need for laborers, and the incredible work to be done throughout the “day” until time is no more. We learn that throughout time the Lord provides the necessary means to His laborers to do His work. When criticism arose concerning those who had been hired later in the day and still paid the same, the Master replied, “Do you begrudge my generosity?” Lord, You are a generous God and not a stingy God. Help us to believe Your own promises to us, Your sure and certain promises squarely and strongly built on **CHRIST OUR CORNERSTONE.**

In His Service,

Pastor Shawn L. Kumm

PAID IN FULL!

In May 2007 Zion made the final payment on the 4.1 acres of land at 30th and Reynolds that was purchased in May 1999 for \$358,000. The total amount paid on the loan was \$414,000. Thanks be to God for His many blessings!

Sustained Giving Stewardship Emphasis Leadership Team Members

- Pastor:** Rev. Shawn L. Kumm
- Emphasis Directors:** Norm & Becky Anderson, Don & Pearl Brosz, Kerry & Jane Greaser
- Emphasis Secretary:** Ed Goetz
- Communication Coordinator:** Jeff Greenwald
- Awareness Coordinators:** Eric & Cheryl Goldenstein, Tim & Clarice Hoff
- Spiritual Nurture Coordinators:** Donna Hanselmann, Sonja Ringen, Lucille Roehrkaske
- Reservations/Hosting Coordinators:** Ralph & Margaret Jaeger
- Initial Commitment Emphasis Coordinators:** Connie & Lydia Kercher, Scott & Lani Sorensen
- Congregational Commitment Events Coordinators:** John & Alice Kay Arnett
- Commitment Follow-Up Coordinators:** Paul L. Hein, Jim Jacobs
- Fulfillment Coordinators:** Dennis & Tina Kats, Herb & Connie Manig
- Teen Emphasis Coordinators:** Jake & Rhiannon Kutzer

Awareness Forum To Be Held On March 2

Be sure to mark your calendar and plan on attending the Sustained Giving Stewardship Emphasis Awareness Forum following the Sunday Worship Service on March 2. This will be your opportunity to learn more about **CHRIST OUR CORNERSTONE.** Information packets will be distributed and a presentation of the Stewardship Emphasis will be made. Please be sure to attend this important event in the life of Zion.

Plan On Participating In Upcoming Prayer Event and Bible Studies!

In conjunction with the Sustained Giving Stewardship Emphasis, Zion will be holding a Prayer Event on Good Friday, March 21 from 12:00 Noon until 3:00 p.m.

There will also be a four-part Bible Study, “Giving Life to the Next Generation” that will begin on Sunday, March 30. The Bible Studies will be held during our normal Bible Study time after Sunday morning worship services. Topics include; “Out of the Saltshaker”, “Cheerful Giving and the Spice of Life”, “Risky Living”, and “A Present from the Past for the Future.”

Please plan on participating in these important events surrounding our Sustained Giving Stewardship Emphasis!

